

SB 5949 - S AMD 266

By Senator Rasmussen

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The department of health, in
4 consultation with affected stakeholders such as hospitals, physicians,
5 and nurses, shall study the establishment of specialty hospitals, and
6 the impact that specialty hospitals have on the delivery of health
7 care. At a minimum the study shall include but not be limited to
8 evaluating the following issues as they pertain to specialty hospitals:

- 9 (a) The availability and delivery of health care services;
- 10 (b) Patient safety;
- 11 (c) Continuity of patient care;
- 12 (d) The provision of emergency services, including the effect of
13 the presence or absence of an emergency department in specialty
14 hospitals;
- 15 (e) Staffing of any existing hospitals in the community served by
16 a specialty hospital, including the effect of specialty hospitals on
17 health care professional shortages, nursing staffing, and the
18 availability of specialty physicians to provide on-call emergency
19 services; and
- 20 (f) The provision of charity care, medicare and medicaid services,
21 services for medically indigent patients, uncompensated care, community
22 service, and access to health care services by medically underserved
23 populations in new and existing hospitals including a comparison of
24 these in relation to hospital tax exemptions and other governmental
25 subsidies.

26 (2) The study also shall include an evaluation of whether
27 requirements for establishing specialty hospitals should be addressed
28 through certificate of need or hospital licensing requirements.

1 (3) For the purposes of the study, "specialty hospitals" does not
2 include specialty hospitals that provide only psychiatric, pediatric,
3 long-term acute care, or rehabilitative services.

4 (4) The department of health shall prepare and present a report to
5 the legislature regarding the study no later than December 1, 2003."

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6 On page 1, line 1 of the title, after "services;" strike the
7 remainder of the title and insert "and creating a new section."

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